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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 08916 180948Z

15
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
---------- 057150
P R 180846Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3962
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T SEOUL 8916

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR UN KS KN
SUBJ: ROK CONCERN ABOUT UN EFFORTS

REF: (A) SEOUL 8532 (B) STATE 26892#

1. IN COURSE NOVEMBER 18 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR (SEPTEL), ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER LHO REITERATED PRESIDENT PARK'S CONCERN ABOUT THIS YEAR'S EXCESSIVE AND FRUSTRATING EFFORTS TO WIN UN VOTES ON KOREA AND URGED SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO MEASURES TO AVOID REPETITION NEXT YEAR, WHILE PRESERVING ARMISTICE AGREEMENT. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT WE ALSO FRUSTRATED, BUT URGED CLOSE CONSULTATION AND CAUTIONED AGAINST HASTY ACTIONS BEFORE PROBLEM THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED. HE NOTED THAT HANDLING UN COMMAND QUESTION WAS DIFFICULT AND THAT REGARDLESS ACTION WE TAKE, FORESTALLING FUTURE UN DEBATE COULD PROVE DIFFICULT. CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS HAD TO BE IN CONTEXT WHAT BEST FROM LONG TERM STRATEGIC NOT JUST TACTICAL POINT OF VIEW. LHO AGREED WITH THIS AND GAVE ASSURANCES ROKG WOULD NOT TAKE HASTY ACTION.

2. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENTIAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISOR CHOE KYU-HA, PAST UNGA ACTIONS ALSO REVIEWED, WITH AMBASSADOR URGING AGAINST ANY DECISION BY ROKG UNTIL THERE HAS BEEN FULL CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS AND FULL CONSULTATION. CHOE AGREED ON NEED TO MOVE SLOWLY. HE SAID THAT THE MORE ROKG STUDIES PROBLEM, THE MORE IT RECOGNIZES THE COMPLICATIONS OF TRYING TO RETAIN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, WHILE AVOIDING FURTHER UN DEBATE.
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HE CITED AS ONE MAJOR PROBLEM FACT THAT ARMISTICE AGREEMENT PUTS

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NORTHWEST ISLANDS UNDER UN COMMANDER, WHICH PROVISION WOULD BE INVALIDATED IF UN COMMAND DISESTABLISHED.

3. CHOE SAID, NEVERTHELESS, PRESIDENT PARK DETERMINED TO ESCAPE FROM UN EXERCISE, BUT "PROBLEM IS HOW". FONMIN KIM HAS BEEN CALLED BACK FOR URGENT CONSULTATIONS ON THIS PROBLEM AFTER CONCLUSION UNGA DEBATE IN KOREA.
SNEIDER

NOTE BY OC/T: REFERENCE (B) AS RECEIVED.

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Draft Date: 18 NOV 1975
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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